
Overview of Fire Control Agreements and Fire Control Plans

2013

FIRE CONTROL AGREEMENTS AND FIRE CONTROL PLANS - OVERVIEW

FIRE CONTROL AGREEMENTS

Basic Components of a Fire Control Agreement

1. Fire control plan
2. Qualified Incident Command Team personnel
3. Wildfire training
4. Pre-suppression and prevention activities
5. Fire guardians
6. Forest and road closures
7. Portions of the AOP relating to wildfire management
8. Financial liabilities
9. FireSmart initiatives (FireSmart Community Zone)
10. Data sharing

ANNUAL FIRE CONTROL PLANS – MINIMUM REQUIREMENTS

In order to comply with the Fire Control Agreement and to meet the requirements of the Forest and Prairie Protection Act and Regulations, each company must submit annually a Fire Control Plan. Each Company must meet the standards as listed below in order to comply. The Annual Fire Control Plan is comprised of two basic portions: Minimum Standard Fire Control Plan Contents and Wildfire Prevention Tactics.

A) Minimum Standard Fire Control Plan Contents:

1. The name of the person who will act in the capacity as the Company's Forest Protection Coordinator.
2. The Company duty roster and 24-hour coverage contact number(s).
3. The names of all Fire Guardians.
4. A list of all Company personnel who can perform overhead functions on a fire and their current ratings in compliance with Wildfire Management Branch fire certification.
5. A list of key personnel, duty roster and contact method by operating area and camps including for after hours.
6. A complete list of firefighting equipment by location.
7. A complete list of heavy equipment owned by the Company and adaptable for use in suppressing fires, together with an adequate description of their planned location and method of contact.
8. A list of equipment owned by persons or companies under contract to the Company and adaptable to fire suppression duties.
9. A description of the planned location of the equipment referred to in the lists provided pursuant to section 8 of this schedule and particulars as to the method of contact of the persons and companies referred to in the lists pursuant to section 8.
10. A plan showing the location and availability of all communications equipment.
11. A list of any available weather reporting stations and equipment.
12. A description of contingencies for fire patrols, shift periods, and shut down as may be required in view of a Ministerial closure of the Forest Management Area.

13. A complete description of all rules, regulations and policies governing the behaviour of the Company's employees, agents, and contractors in regard to fire prevention, suppression, and state of readiness, (i.e. smoking rules, extinguishers etc.).
14. The Forestry Manager may at any time request a list of personnel that attended the pre-season orientation course referred to in section 14 (a) of the Wildfire Prevention Tactics portion of the Annual Fire Control Plan.
15. Maps including the following information:
 - a. Location of any burning done as referred to in section 1(a) of the Wildfire Prevention Tactics portion of the Annual Fire Control Plan. The number of hectares burned shall be indicated by block. The burning plan shall include burning methods to be employed and upon completion of burning the location files (digital) shall be submitted to the Forestry Manager.
 - b. All areas of forest harvesting and construction crews.
 - c. Locations of camps to be used by harvesting, load and hauling, and construction and reforestation crews.
 - d. A complete road plan showing the class and condition of all Company roads
 - e. The high-risk areas identified in the threat and risk assessments as identified in the Fire Control Agreement.
 - f. For pre-attack purposes a map of the active operating areas within the Area Operating Plan showing the location of known reliable water sources useable by either water trucks or pump sets, or both.
16. A description of all survey, planting, and other miscellaneous forestry crews as well as movements of logging and construction crews and equipment shall be provided to the Forest Protection Branch on a weekly basis or as moves occur, as a means of keeping the Annual Fire Control Plan current.
17. A description of how the Company will ensure that each active operation will maintain the minimum standard of firefighting equipment to meet regulations and how the Company will inspect this for compliance periodically.
18. A description of the training program to include:
 - a. The type and level of courses,
 - b. A course subject outline,
 - c. Which employees will be involved,
 - d. Timing and location of courses, and
 - e. Instructor assistance requested from the Forest Protection Branch.
19. The Company will provide reasonable support personnel for wildfire suppression in the province when requested with a priority in their area of operations. Such positions might include, but not be limited to, GIS mapping, administrative, contract administrators, cat bosses and sector leaders.

B) Wildfire Prevention Tactics:

1. (a) During the fire season, the Company shall not conduct any burning unless it is under the authority of a fire permit or an approved burn plan and as per the required statutes and regulations.

 (b) The Company will ensure that any burning done by or on its behalf shall be shown on a suitable map attached to the Annual Fire Control Plan, or submitted separately at a time that is acceptable to the Minister.

In the event of a fire:

2. The Company shall immediately notify the Minister of the presence of a fire within the Company's operating area. This includes all fires that the Company acts to suppress regardless of the time of year.
3. The Company shall immediately report any wildfire discovered within the Forest Management Area or Quota Area by the Company or reported to the Company, or to

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the Wildfire Management Branch and take immediate action using as much of the resources reasonably and lawfully available to the Company in the vicinity of the fire as required to contain the fire regardless of the time of year.

4. When the Wildfire Management Branch acts to suppress any wildfire within the Forest Management Area or Quota Area, the Company will, as requested aid, assist, and work under the direction and control of the Wildfire Management Branch.
5. The Forestry Manager shall release from fire suppression assignments, as soon as may be practical, all personnel employed and equipment owned by the Company, its servants, agents, and contractors.
6. The Company is entitled to briefings by the Wildfire Management Branch of any suppression action being employed to suppress a wildfire.
7. A wildfire within the Forest Management Area or Quota Area shall not be deemed extinguished until a Forest Protection Branch Incident Commander has declared the fire extinguished.
8. The Wildfire Management Branch has the final responsibility and authority for wildfire suppression within the Forest Management Area.

ROAD CLOSURES

9. The Company may request the Minister to close specified roads or operating area to prevent use thereof by the general public during periods of high and extreme fire hazard. Administration of the road closure will be the responsibility of the Company.
10. In the event the Minister declares the Forest Management Area or Quota Area or portion thereof to be closed because of fire hazard, the Company shall cease or restrict operations as may be directed by the Forestry Manager.
11. Details and contingencies for ceasing or restricting operations within the Forest Management Area or Quota Area during periods of high and extreme fire hazard shall be determined at the time by the Forestry Manager

FIRE GUARDIANS

12. (a) The Minister may cause those employees designated from time to time by the Company to be appointed as fire guardians under section 4(1) of the Act.
- (b) The Company will conduct ground patrols with an appointed company Fire Guardian throughout the Company's Forest Management Area or Quota Area.
- (c) At Head Fire Intensity 4 and higher the Company will conduct patrols and assist with bans and closures by utilizing their Fire Guardians.

QUALIFIED FIRE OVERHEAD

13. The Company shall designate one duly qualified person to act as an overall Forest Protection Co-ordinator who will be responsible for wildfire prevention measures and pre-suppression arrangements and who will act as the lead contact to the Forestry Manager.

FIRE TRAINING

14. The Company shall establish and maintain the following minimum training standard for its woodlands employees, agents or contractors if they are conducting active operations in the fire season.
 - (a) Prior to May 31st each year, the Company shall provide a forest fire orientation-training course for all woodland employees and contractors who are conducting operations on behalf of the Company.
 - (b) There shall be a minimum of one person trained for basic understanding of initial attack and sustained action on wildfires that is capable of taking charge until a designated Forest Protection Branch employee arrives.